

LADIES MAY BE GIVEN THE RIGHT TO BALLOT

EQUAL SUFFRAGE AMENDMENT PROGRESSIVE STEP AND IT SHOULD HAVE BIG MAJORITY.

Yes, sir, gentlemen, it commences to look as if the ladies might vote at each and every election held after the coming election on November 5, because from the talk and expression which we hear the men who have been thinking the thing over have about concluded that the ladies, being good enough for most everything else, ought to and surely are, good enough to go up on the day when Americans usually decide the things which come up at stated intervals, by the ballot, and take a hand in the deciding, seeing that she always has to help foot the bills anyhow later on. The ladies surely ought to vote.

Read the following amendment to the constitution over and then go down to the booth on election day and cast your ballot for your wife, your mother or your sweetheart, whichever the case may be and be so that when you go home from voting that you will not have to lie or have to attempt to explain just why she is not as good as you and a lot of other men are and why she had not ought to vote.

The amendment which you ought to vote for is as follows:

Section 1. In all elections every inhabitant of this state being a citizen of the United States; every inhabitant residing in this state on the 24th day of June, 1835; every inhabitant residing in this state on the 1st day of January, 1850; every male inhabitant of foreign birth who, having resided in the state 2 years and 6 months prior to the 8th day of November, 1894, and having declared his intention to become a citizen of the United States 2 years and 6 months prior to the 8th day of November, 1894, and having declared his intention to become a citizen of the United States 2 years and 6 months prior to said last named day and every civilized inhabitant of Indian descent, a native of the United States and not a member of any tribe, shall be an elector and entitled to vote; but no one shall be an elector and entitled to vote at any election, unless he (or she) shall be above the age of 21 years and has resided in this state 6 months, and in the township or ward in which he or she offers to vote 20 days next preceding such election; Provided, That no qualified elector in the actual military service of the United States or of the state or in the army or navy thereof, or any student while in attendance at any institution of learning, or any regularly enrolled member of any citizens' military or naval training camp held under the authority of the government of the United States or of the state of Michigan, or any member of the legislative while in attendance at any session of the legislature, or commercial traveler, or any qualified elector employed upon or in the operation of railroad trains in this state or any sailor or seaman employed on the Great Lakes or in coastwise trade shall be deprived of a vote by reason of the absence from the township ward or state in which elector resides, and the legislature shall provide by law the manner in which and the time and place at which such absent electors may vote and for the canvass and new cases of their election; Provided further, That the legislature shall have power to pass laws covering qualified electors who may be necessarily absent from other causes than those specified; and Provided further, That there shall be no denial of the elective franchise at any election on account of sex.

Confesses To Murder.

Mrs. Carrie Hutton, who is confined in the county jail at St. Louis, recently confessed to the deliberate murdering of her husband, Wm. Hutton, whom she killed by shooting through the head on the morning of September 30 at their home north of the city. Mrs. Hutton admits that there was no struggle and that the murder was deliberate on her part and that she now sees very clearly that her course in the matter was entirely wrong. On the other hand she tells some stories which are almost unbelievable of the beastly nature of the man with whom she had lived for many years. She tells of some of the vile, low, unpeppable and unprintable things which Hutton, her husband, compelled her to do to satisfy his beastly cravings and these stories, borne out largely by neighbors who knew some of the things connected with the family, alter the circumstances and make her crime less, according to Prosecutor Miller, Chas. B. Rarden and other attorneys and investigators who have been at work on the case. Mrs. Hutton will undoubtedly get a life sentence for the murder, but the chances are that with the evidence which is being collected for the use of a pardon board at some future time, that she will be pardoned at the first effort in that direction.

Christian Endeavor Met.

The regular monthly business meeting of the Congregational Christian Endeavor was held with the congregations as Edward would soon leave for college. The meeting was a farewell to him, he being a charter member. After a delicious picnic supper Clifton Green was elected president to fill vacancy. Edward Johnson's resignation was accepted and fine letter written to Clarence Green over there, each one present sending a few words of cheer. Mr. Deppie took a flash-light of the gathering.

Sergt. Myers Back Here.

Sergeant William J. Myers, one of the survivors of the famous Canadian Black Watch returned to this city Monday evening, having spent several days visiting home folks in Canada. While there he visited his youngest and only brother, John, who has been invalided home after having gone through the British campaign against the Turks in the Holy Land. Another brother of Sergt. Myers lies buried on French soil, having been killed in battle early in the war. Sergt. Myers will speak in the opera house at Saranac tomorrow night, Thursday, October 16. Wherever he has appeared so far he has had packed audiences and he has sure delivered the goods when it came to depicting scenes of fighting in France in the early days of the war.

Home on Furlough.

Sergt. Lou Curtis, of the quartermaster's department of the U. S. Marines, who is stationed at Paris Island, S. C., arrived in the city Monday evening for a short visit at the home of his parents, Supervisor and Mrs. B. C. Curtis of the Third ward. Bert Curtis of Lansing, another son, is also home and there is a sort of a family reunion on at the Curtis home through the fact that the soldier of the sea is home on furlough.

GRANGERS ARE TO HOLD THEIR FIFTH ANNUAL FAIR

EVENT IN PREVIOUS YEARS HAS BEEN FINE DISPLAY OF COMMUNITY'S PRODUCTIVENESS.

Fred Thompson, of the local organization of Grangers, informs us that some time during the month of December, Belding Grange will hold their fifth annual fair in the city hall auditorium in this city and that the committee which was appointed to look after this matter is already working out plans for the successful staging of this ever popular event.

The local grange is to be commended for these annual fairs, as they serve to stimulate interest in the arts of housework and husbandry and the displays which have been exhibited at the various fairs were always the result of some special effort expended toward making things on the farm still better than they had been. Each year too, more and more farmers have taken a greater interest in the exhibition and the people from this city have lagged none in attending the fairs.

The notice of intention to hold the fair is given out this year quite a long time ahead of the time of actually holding it as heretofore there have been many farmers who had some especially good article of farm produce which would have been worth much in the exhibit and who thinking that perhaps the fair would not be held that particular year, used up the would-be prize winner. Therefore the advance notice this year and if any person has something that they think would be a prize winner at the fair, they should take particular pains to save and have it on exhibition for the desire of the Grange to make the 1918 fair better and bigger than any of the four previous fairs which they have held.

Cecil Ganoung Dead.

Cecil Ganoung, for a number of years a resident of this city, died at his home on Monon avenue, Thursday night at 10:45 o'clock following a very short illness. Death was caused by hemorrhage of the lungs, following an ailing period of eight years. Mr. Ganoung was well and favorably known in this city and had many friends who will learn with regret that he has passed to the other side. He was at one time engaged in the livery business in this city. His funeral was held Sunday afternoon at 1 o'clock from the residence, Rev. P. R. Norton officiating and burial was in Sidney cemetery. He is survived by his wife, his parents and two sisters in Chicago, a brother in the U. S. navy and one in Chicago and another sister living at Pueblo, Col.

East Otisco Farmers' Club.

The October meeting of the East Otisco Farmers' club was held at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Berthold Chickering.

A very good attendance pleased the hosts as much as the quantity and quality of the dinner pleased the guests.

The program was fine and was interspersed with music by Uncle Wild Howe and Clarence Chickering.

Several names were presented for membership.

It can truly be said to have been one very happy and beneficial meeting of the club.

No Evidence of Nine Lives.

The old traditional saying that a cat has nine lives was cast to the winds on Saturday morning, when Charley Coon, driving an automobile on Main street, struck a cat which was crossing the pavement in front of Lamb's store. Poor old pussy went down for lives in reserve she evidently thought that life was not worth living and failed to use any of them. Some who thought the second time, decided that the cat had "checked in" eight times before and was running on its last life. No blame is attached to Mr. Coon for the killing as people who saw the accident state that the cat deliberately committed suicide.

Halloween Social.

There will be a Halloween social at the residence of John Andra in Keene Friday night, Oct. 25, 1918. Proceeds will be divided between the Red Cross and Tasker school. A New England supper will be served. Admission 50c a couple.

The panhandler who tells you he can't find work is a member of the Ananias club.

Flags Go At Half Mast And Business Places Close As Three Brave Belding Soldiers Who Gave Their Lives For Country are Buried

Suspense of Waiting For Bodies of Local Men Who Died of Pneumonia Following Attacks of Spanish Influenza Ends. Boys Game to the Last and Wishing to Stick to Their Outfits Which Were Ready to go Overseas, Refused to Acknowledge Illness Until Disease Had Progressed Too Far to be Conquered



Mat Jonas

Charles Chadwick

Mark Osworth

The body of Mark Osworth arrived on the 10:15 train last Thursday morning, the body of Charles Chadwick arrived on the morning train up from Grand Rapids Monday morning and the body of Mat Jonas arrived on the 3:22 o'clock train from Saginaw Monday afternoon. Nothing had been heard from the hospital authorities at Ft. McHenry, Baltimore, after the telegrams which announced the deaths of the men, arrived, and it was thought by some that the bodies might never be sent here, but owing to the fact that it was unable to secure caskets for the soldiers as they died, the bodies had to wait until they could be attended to.

In honor of the splendid young men who so patriotically and valiantly went forth from this city on the 15th day of July to take their part in the great war, the flags of the city went at half mast on the days of the three funerals and during the hours at which the funerals were being held, the business places of the city were closed. To attempt to pay sufficient honor to the characters of these three young men would be absolutely useless as they were known to be of the very best class of young men in this city and their loss is sustained not alone by their parents and immediate relatives and friends but by the entire community at large. They were sons of Belding and Belding mourns.

The funeral of Mark Osworth was held from the residence on Masonic avenue Tuesday afternoon at 2:30 o'clock, Rev. J. F. Lulig officiating. The following beautiful obituary was read:

Mark Marshall Osworth was born in St. Louis, Mich., Aug. 17, 1892, and died in Camp Halabard, Maryland, Oct. 6, 1918, aged 26 years, 1 month and 19 days. At the age of 12 years he came to Belding where he lived up to the time of his enlistment. During his youthful years he suffered several injuries and was never rugged physically. He was possessed with a cheerful and happy disposition, always hopeful, an inspiration in the home and won the hearts of those with whom he associated. He was a worthy member of the Baraca class of the Methodist Sunday school, also a member of the Home Guards of this city.

He enlisted in the service of his country in Co. C, June 26, 1918. He served eight weeks in Lansing and was then sent to Camp Halabard, where he was at the time of his demise. He leaves to mourn their loss a devoted father and mother and five sisters, Mrs. Blanche Jenks, of Denver, Colo., Mrs. Edna Klein, Misses Libbie, Bernice and Marie Osworth of Belding, Michigan.

The lovely and loving son, brother and friend died where manhood's morning almost touches noon and while the shadows still were falling toward the west. He had not passed on life's highway the stone that marks its highest point; but being weary for a moment he laid down for a pillow, fell into that dreamless sleep that kisses down his eyelids still. While yet in love with life and raptured with the world he passed to silence and pathetic dust. Yet, after all, it may be best—just in the happy, sunniest hour of all the voyage, while eager winds are kissing every sail, to dash against the unseen rock, and in an instant hear the billows roar above a sunken ship. For whether in mid sea or among the breakers of the farther shore, a wreck must mark at least the end of each and all.

Interment was in River Ridge cemetery.

The funeral of Charles Chadwick was held from the residence on Masonic avenue Tuesday afternoon at 2:30 o'clock, Rev. P. R. Norton officiating and interment was in Green's church cemetery.

Charles Chadwick was born on June 1893 and lived in the vicinity east of here practically all of his life. He is a son of Mr. and Mrs. James E. Chadwick, east of town and leaves besides his widow, his parents, a brother, Elliott, now in France and a sister, Mrs. Glenn Sprague. He was a member of the Masonic order of the city and many of that order were at the funeral waiting on the outside of the house while the services, which were private and for the immediate relatives and close friends, were being conducted.

On July 15 he left this city for Lansing, where he was trained for two months and from there went to Camp

Halabard, Maryland, where he contracted Spanish influenza and later on pneumonia and which resulted in his death at Ft. McHenry base hospital, Baltimore, Md., on Monday morning, October 7. He was married on August 22, 1913 to Miss Clara Fisher, who survives and has the sympathy of the entire city in her hour of deep affliction. He was for a long time employed in the Richardson mill and his character was above reproach. His friends in this city are from all classes and all creeds and are legion.

The funeral of Mat Jonas was held from St. Joseph's Catholic church in this city this Wednesday morning at 9 o'clock, with a solemn requiem high mass, at which Rev. Fr. John A. Klich officiated as celebrant with Rev. Fr. H. D. McCarthy and Fr. John A. Gabriels of Ionia, as deacon and sub-deacon. The funeral was private to the immediate relatives and friends and a large concourse of people waited outside and followed the body to its last resting place in St. Joseph's Catholic cemetery, where at the grave, Fr. Klich delivered a very impressive sermon and tribute to the dead soldier and his relatives.

Mat Jonas is survived by his father and mother and one sister, Miss Agnes Jonas, by other relatives in this city and vicinity and by hosts of friends in all walks in life who knew him as a big hearted friend and a strictly honorable and upright young man. He was a member of the Knights of Columbus and the Holy Name society. He was formerly engaged in the grocery business in this city. He left this city July 15 and his military career was of the same duration and length of time as was Mark Osworth and Chas. Chadwick the three men leaving together and dying in the same hospital within 24 hours of one another.

Mat Jonas was born on July 1, 1894 and was 24 years of age. His funeral was the last of the three and the three gold stars which hang on the service flag of this city are for the first of Belding's brave Mark Osworth, Charles Chadwick and Mat Jonas, who gave their lives in the great cause of democracy.

DEATH OVERTAKES MAN WHILE RIDING IN AUTO

While Mr. and Mrs. Geo. Cooper were visiting their daughter in Flint Mr. Cooper was stricken with paralysis. Word was sent to relatives here that he could not live. Mrs. Arthur Powell and her brother went to Flint on Sunday and Monday morning they started for Belding, bringing Mr. Cooper with them in the automobile. When near St. Johns Mr. Cooper expired.

Mr. Cooper moved here from Greenville about one year ago and had been in poor health for several months. He was 67 years old and leaves to mourn his loss a wife and two daughters and three sons. There will be a short funeral service at the house at 12 p. m. Thursday and at 2:30 p. m. at Spencer Mills church.

Though baseball is a nonessential industry throwing grenades is not.

Baseball has no solar plexus, but it has been hit there just the same.

Why Advertised Stores Succeed

The Banner-News will begin in next week's issue the publication of a series of brief editorials under the above title. This subject is treated for two reasons. First, recognition is due from us to the splendid business enterprise of the many merchants who use our columns to promote their business growth.

These men are working not merely for their own profit but they are helping to spread the idea all around the outlying country that Belding is a good place to trade in. They deserve our support as the newspaper that profits by their business initiative.

They deserve the backing of every citizen who admires wide-awake enterprise and believes it profitable to the community to help it along. Not merely do they deserve support, but the people who trade with them find it advantageous and profitable to do so. Some of the reasons why this is so will be taken up in this little series of talks.

Also we beg permission very re-

spectfully to solicit the interest in advertising of those of our merchants who have never felt it necessary to use any newspaper space. We never wish to say anything disagreeable to them or of them and do not undertake to understand their business any better than the owners thereof. Still we assume they will not mind if we present a few of the reasons out of our own experience and observation, why we believe that a policy of judicious advertising would help them and would tend to boost along the whole community in whose advance we all have an interest.

We offer hearty thanks to the splendid merchants who have used our space so generously in the past, and are confident it has been to their advantage, as we know it has been a help to the whole town.

More Men For Uncle Sam.

Ted Waite, Don Cook, Merton Mosher, Arthur Richardson, Harold Udike and Bruce Pickard left here on the noon train Monday for Ionia, where they were entrained for the following morning for Ann Arbor for training.

Visited Injured Brother.

Herbert L. Johnson, C. Walter Knight, Al Avery, George Elmendorf and Levi Buswell of the Men's class at the Church of Christ spent a pleasant social hour with J. B. Essex Friday evening. They brought with them a nice bouquet of carnations, a basket of fruit, grapes, bananas, apples and oranges. It was an hour well spent and Mr. Essex was very much cheered by their visit. The men are all members of the Church of Christ and it is such little acts of Christian charity which make life all the more worth living in a community where the same are practiced. Mr. Essex is slowly improving from his recent injury.

Gave Farewell Parties.

Friday evening, Oct. 4, the East Otisco Farmers' club, the Belding Grange, immediate neighbors and three carloads from Grattan grange assembled at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Chas. Johnson to give Edward the proper preparation for leaving on Saturday, Oct. 5, to take the regular course at M. A. C. He attended Western Normal at Kalamazoo the past summer, taking the teachers' examination in August but being only 17 decided it better to go to college and save his teacher's certificate.

PUBLIC PLACES CLOSED TO HELP CHECK INFLUENZA

55 CASES REPORTED IN CITY—CHURCHES, PUBLIC SCHOOLS, THEATER, ETC., CLOSED.

The Spanish influenza epidemic has got things on the run in this city and on Tuesday morning the school bells failed to ring their usual call to the students and scholars of the city. Monday night the Empress theater failed to open its doors and on Sunday the churches of the city will hold no services, owing to a determined effort of the board of health of the city to stop the spread of and stamp out the disease.

About 55 cases have been reported to Health Officer Little to date and he acting in conjunction with the other members of the board of health decided that the best thing to do to prevent the spreading of the malady was to ask the owners of all public gathering places in the city to close their places of business for a period of not less than ten days and perhaps for two weeks, at which time it is thought that the disease will be so far conquered that it will once more be safe to open the places to the public.

With this idea in mind Dr. Little took the matter up with Messrs. Wright & Joslin, proprietors of the Empress theater and the latter were only too willing to comply with the request and closed their theater, cancelling all bookings for pictures which they had and at a total loss to themselves for the time that they are shut up. John Dehn, proprietor of the Smoke House at the corner of Pleasant Main streets, volunteered to close up his card and smoking room. This place is one of the most popular hanging out places in the city and accommodates hundreds of people daily, but Mr. Dehn, with two sons in the national service, felt that he would rather close the entire place than to see the disease spread.

The ministers of the city, when requested to keep the churches closed to the churchgoers next Sunday and during the nights of the week at which times services are usually held, also gladly offered to do anything that they could in aiding in stamping out the epidemic, which seems to be so infectious that it spreads with alarming rapidity.

Up to date there are no deaths in this city due to the epidemic, although there are some very sick people who are suffering with the disease and it is only by the strictest attention that the health of the public can be protected during this time. A child in school who had the disease and who thinking that she could keep on attending to her studies exposed so many that the day following her own seat and the seats of practically every child sitting near her were vacant.

The matter up on Monday and the teachers asked the pupils in the various rooms how many there were who had someone sick with the epidemic in their homes and a great number stood up to testify. These children were then sent home. On Tuesday morning it was decided that the schools would be reopened until Monday morning, October 28.

The epidemic of Spanish influenza seems to keep on raging throughout the nation, although reports coming in from the various army camps and cantonments state that it is on the decrease. The number of deaths among the soldiers has been more than the number of casualties in the expeditionary forces in France and bodies of dead soldiers have waited for days waiting for coffins to contain them.

The action of the health officer and the board of health is to be commended as is also the action of the board of education and extra precautions should be taken by each and everyone to fight the first symptoms of the disease when they become apparent.

CHURCH EXTENDED CALL TO REV. W. J. ROOK

At a meeting of the trustees and members of the Congregational church held Monday evening a call to the pastorate of the church was extended Rev. W. J. Rook of Vanderbilt, Mich. If he accepts the call the regular services will begin on the first Sunday in November. The parsonage is already being repaired in anticipation of its occupancy by the new pastor and his wife.

Mr. Rook has been in the ministry 10 years and has received the endorsement of the officials of the Congregational state board of Lansing, as being an energetic worker in church activities.

GRIM WRITERS OF WORLD HISTORY WRITE LETTERS HOME

LETTERS COME FROM ACROSS THE SEA WHERE LOCAL BOYS ARE AFTER THE HUN



More letters from the boys in the service, from boys who walked the streets of this city a year ago and who today are walking the streets of some French village or some American camp in France or in this country or with fixed bayonet putting some of the enemy out of commission. Yes, brave men are the writers of these letters and the great history which they are writing is of the most important that the annals of world history will ever contain.

"Bill" Rusher, formerly head clerk in the Frisco & Divine store, but now a lieutenant in the United States army writes the following letter to Vern C. Divine:

Sept. 7, 1918.

Dear Vern: This letter might well be entitled "Thank God for the Military Band," and "other music," for it's about that I shall write.

I wish you could have been with me a little while ago Vern but since you weren't, I'll try to express the thought I want you to get, as best I can.

We had a little concert this evening out in a small pine grove just a hundred yards or so from our barracks. In the center of the grove we had built up a platform and lighted it with electric lights. We had been using the grove to hold our gun drill in and our cannon were scattered all about—grim evidence of the war that is so near at hand to us.

It was a very pleasant evening and everyone had turned out to enjoy the fun. And there on that old wooden platform with row after row of khaki clad men for an audience one after another they came. Men who no doubt have called forth long applause in crowded opera houses, for no pay or reward of any kind, sang their songs and told their stories for the mere pleasure of making their comrades happy. And intermingled with their songs were selections by our military band.

The lights threw their glow but a short distance but the stars were shining brightly and it was a very pretty scene. Sometimes there'd be a love song or a song of home and everything would be very still and it took but little imagination to follow the thoughts of every fellow there to someone or something he loved across the sea.

The fellow from Texas thinking of running cattle out on the prairie with his eyes full of sand and the smell of hot horse flesh in his nostrils. The little "use to be" alley rat from the west side of New York city dreaming of the black haired girl who'd said "I'll be waitin' kid when you come back again." Or the fellow of 30 or thereabouts sitting back near the edge of the crowd, perhaps longing for his wife and little baby on "their" farm out in Iowa. Each one thinking of his own little world and none caring who knew of what he thought.

But there was no sadness there. When the band played rag time you'd hear the yelling all over camp—fellows out in the edge of the grove who were sleeping in pup tents, others in the barracks all over camp who for some reason hadn't attended the concert—the yelling of the healthy fellows who'd just been to bed.

And I'm glad that I can be here in it all, Vern, I'll never stop being glad that I'm with the rest for they are the best men in the world today, men who love their country and are determined to make it a safe place to live in.

Little incidents like that of this evening produce but "moods of the moment" of course, and may mean but little to you, but it's just such little things that give us all the courage to "carry on" and do things in a big way.

I only wish that I could make you feel the "spirit" of such gathering as I have felt it this evening but I realize of course that that is impossible. But it's well worth while.

I am "officer of the day," commander of the guard in other words, tonight and will have to set up in the middle of the night and make the rounds to see that everything is o. k. so I'd better turn in now. It will be a shame Vern, if I don't get back some day to tell you of all the things I've seen and experienced over here. But if I don't some one else can.

Best regards to all. Sincerely yours,

Lt. Evan S. Rusher,

343 F. A., A. P. O. 778, A. E. F.

Jay McNitt, son of Mr. and Mrs. Fred McNitt, is the writer of the second letter and Jay is now in France with the rest of the boys who are going to clean up this thing before they come home. Jay's letter follows:

Sept. 6, 1918.

Dear Mother and Father: As this is Sunday and I have a little time to write, will let you know I am fine and dandy, am very busy all the time I have to write is Sunday morning; in the afternoon we have wash our clothes and get everything ready for our morning trip. This is a small place but a fine place, flowers everywhere you look. It's warm here through the day but the nights are very cold. We have to cover up with a heavy blanket. How is the weather down there? Has had got (Continued on Page Five)